

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /078 W
----- 119363

R 261245Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6688

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC HAWAII

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4199

CINCPAC AND CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MV

SUBJ: BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM RAF GAN: MALDIVIAN REACTION

REF: COLOMBO 1387(DTG 191145Z AR 76) (NOTAL)

TTE

1. DISCUSSED POSSIBLE SOVIET OR IRANIAN INTEREST IN MILITARY

USE OF GAN WITH BRITISH EMBASSY (ALSTON) ON APRIL 26. ALSTON SAID THAT AS FAR AS HIS EMBASSY IS AWARE, THERE HAS BEEN NO EXPRESSION OF SOVIET INTEREST IN EX-BRITISH BASE. UNDER TERMS OF HMG/GOM AGREEMENT, GAN FACILITIES MAY NOT BE UTILIZED BY ANY THIRD POWER WITHOUT BRITISH APPROVAL. THIS CONDITION REMAINS VALID EVEN THOUGH RAF HAS WITHDRAWN FROM GAN. AGREEMENT WILL LAST UNTIL 1986.

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2. ALSTON SAID GOI HAD ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON GAN IN

MARCH AS PREPARATION FOR VISIT BY THEIR CHARGE' IN COLOMBO TO THE MALDIVES. BRITISH HAD PROVIDED INFORMATION ALONG LINES PRECEDING PARAGRAPH. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT IRANIANS WERE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING USE OF GAN FOR P-3S OR OTHER IIAF AIRCRAFT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY AT A LATER DATE.

3. WE ARE CERTAIN GOI WOULD BE DEEPLY DISTURBED IF THERE WERE DEFINITE INFORMATION AS TO SOVIET INTEREST IN GAN. IRANIANS WOULD PERCEIVE YET ANOTHER SOVIET ACTION TO STAKE OUT POSITION SURROUNDING PERSIAN GULF. SHOULD THE SOVIET INTEREST MATERIALIZE IN SOME TANGIBLE WAY, WE BELIEVE IRANIANS MIGHT WELL ATTEMPT TO PREEMPT SUCH A MOVE BY BIDDING FOR USE OF GAN FACILITIES. UNLESS DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMATION WHICH WULD TEND TO CONTRADICT LOCAL BRITISH ASSESSMENT THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT NOW INTERESTED AND COULD NOT ACQUIRE POSITION IN MALDIVES WITHOUT HMG APPROVAL, BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT RAISE THIS MATTER WITH IRANIAN GOVERNMENT BUT RATHER MONITOR ANY INTEREST GOI MAY DISPLAY IN TAKING OVER BRITISH ROLE. WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER DISCUSSIONS WITH IRANIANS AT A LATER DATE SHOULD DEVELOPMENT OF UNFRIENDLY PRESENCE ON GAN SEEM MORE LIKELY.
HELMS

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NNN

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